

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-20, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Please add new Claims 21-47 as follows:

21. (NEW) A trolley control wheel assembly adapted to be fitted to a trolley having a longitudinal axis of travel and an array of castors having respective castor wheels, said assembly comprising:

a fixed wheel adapted to be disposed in use on a trolley in a vicinity of one of a load center of the trolley and a center of the array of castors, and

a self-contained gas strut independent of the castors and operable to provide controlled contact between the fixed wheel and a surface on which the trolley is intended to travel.

22. (NEW) A trolley control wheel assembly adapted to be fitted to a trolley having a longitudinal axis of travel and an array of castors, said assembly comprising:

a fixed wheel in the vicinity of the load center of the trolley or the center of the array of castors, and

a bias means and a damping means to provide controlled contact between the fixed wheel and a surface on which the trolley is intended to travel, wherein the bias means and the damping means jointly comprise a self-contained gas strut independent of any other wheel.

23. (NEW) A trolley control wheel assembly as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the load center of the trolley and the center of the array of castors coincide.

24. (NEW) A trolley control wheel assembly as claimed in Claim 22, wherein a force of the bias means is independent of a load on the trolley.

25. (NEW) A trolley control wheel assembly as claimed in Claim 22, wherein a force of the bias means does not exceed the weight of an empty trolley.

26. (NEW) A trolley control wheel assembly as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the bias means is biased downwards towards the surface on which the trolley is intended to travel.

27. (NEW) A trolley control wheel assembly as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the trolley has four castors disposed in the vicinity of the corners of the trolley.

28. (NEW) A trolley control wheel assembly as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the fixed wheel rotates about a horizontal axis but cannot rotate about a vertical axis.

29. (NEW) A trolley control wheel assembly as claimed in Claim 21, wherein in order to facilitate lateral maneuvering of a trolley, said wheel assembly further comprises a lifting means to lift the fixed wheel of the control wheel assembly out of contact with a travel surface to enable the trolley to be readily moved at right angles to a desired direction of movement or travel.

30. (NEW) A trolley having a longitudinal axis of travel, comprising:
an array of castors fitted thereto, and

a trolley control wheel assembly comprising:

a fixed wheel fixed at a position in the vicinity of a load center of the trolley or a center of the array of castors; and

a bias means and a damping means to provide controlled contact between the wheel and a surface on which the trolley is intended to travel, wherein the bias means and the damping means jointly comprise a self-contained gas strut independent of any other wheel.

31. (NEW) A cart having a longitudinal axis of travel, comprising:

an array of castors fitted thereto, and

a trolley control wheel assembly which comprises:

a fixed wheel adapted to be disposed in use on a trolley in a vicinity of one of a load center of the trolley and a center of the array of castors, and

a self-contained gas strut independent of the castors and operable to provide controlled contact between the fixed wheel and a surface on which the trolley is intended to travel.

32. (NEW) A trolley as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the load center of the trolley and the center of the array of castors coincide.

33. (NEW) A trolley as claimed in Claim 30, wherein a force of the bias means is independent of a load on the trolley.

34. (NEW) A trolley as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the trolley has four castors disposed in the vicinity of the corners of the trolley.

35. (NEW) A trolley as claimed in Claim 30, wherein in order to facilitate lateral maneuvering of a trolley, said wheel assembly further comprises a lifting means to lift the wheel of the control wheel assembly out of contact with a travel surface to enable the trolley to be readily moved at right angles to the customary desired direction of movement or travel.

36. (NEW) A trolley having a longitudinal axis of travel and having an array of castors on which the trolley can be moved from place to place in a general direction of the longitudinal axis of the trolley, the improvement which comprises:

a control wheel assembly comprising a fixed wheel fixed at a position in the vicinity of a load center of the trolley or a center of the array of castors and a bias means and a damping means to provide controlled contact between the wheel and a surface on which the trolley is intended to travel, wherein the bias means and the damping means jointly comprise a self-contained gas strut independent of any other wheel.

37. (NEW) A trolley as claimed in Claim 36, wherein the load center of the trolley and the center of the array of castors coincide.

38. (NEW) A trolley as claimed in Claim 36, wherein a force of the bias means is independent of a load on the trolley.

39. (NEW) A trolley as claimed in Claim 36, wherein the trolley has four castors disposed in the vicinity of the corners of the trolley.

40. (NEW) A trolley as claimed in Claim 36, wherein in order to facilitate lateral maneuvering of a trolley, said wheel assembly further comprises a lifting means to lift the wheel of the control wheel assembly out of contact with a travel surface to enable the trolley to be readily moved at right angles to a desired direction of movement or travel.

41. (NEW) A castored trolley control wheel assembly which includes a fixed wheel, a bias means and a damping means to provide controlled contact between the wheel and a surface on which the trolley is intended to travel, wherein the bias means and the damping means jointly comprise a self-contained gas strut independent of any other wheel.

42. (NEW) A trolley control wheel assembly adapted to be fitted to a trolley having a longitudinal axis of travel and an array of castors, said assembly comprising a plurality of wheels fixed in the vicinity of a load center of the trolley or a center of the array of castors, each wheel having a bias means and a damping means to provide controlled contact between the fixed wheel and a surface on which the trolley is intended to travel, wherein the bias means and the damping means jointly comprise a self-contained gas strut independent of any other wheel.

43. (NEW) A trolley having a longitudinal axis of travel, comprising:

an array of castors fitted thereto, and

a trolley control wheel assembly comprising a plurality of wheels fixed at a position in the vicinity of a load center

of the trolley or a center of the array of castors, each wheel having a bias means and a damping means to provide controlled contact between the wheel and a surface on which the trolley is intended to travel, wherein the bias means and the damping means jointly comprise a self-contained gas strut independent of any other wheel.

44. (NEW) A trolley having a longitudinal axis of travel and having an array of castors on which the trolley can be moved from place to place in a general direction of the longitudinal axis of the trolley or otherwise, the improvement which comprises:

a control wheel assembly comprising a plurality of wheels fixed at a position in the vicinity of a load center of the trolley or a center of the array of castors, each wheel having a bias means and a damping means to provide controlled contact between the wheel and a surface on which the trolley is intended to travel, wherein the bias means and the damping means jointly comprise a self-contained gas strut independent of any other wheel.

45. (NEW) A castored trolley control wheel assembly which includes a plurality of fixed wheels, each wheel having a bias means and a damping means to provide controlled contact between the wheel and a surface on which the trolley is intended to travel, wherein the bias means and the damping means jointly comprise a self-contained gas strut independent of any other wheel.

46. (NEW) A trolley control wheel assembly adapted to be fitted to a trolley having a longitudinal axis of travel and an array of castors having respective castor wheels, said assembly comprising: